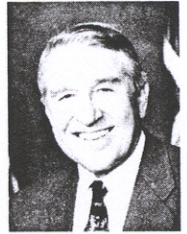




NEWS FROM

# Jack Scott

21st SENATE DISTRICT



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## GOVERNOR TO CONSIDER MEASURE PREVENTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM HOARDING TEXTBOOK FUNDING

**Scott legislation would require new textbooks within two years**

A measure that will stop school districts from inappropriately "hoarding", or not spending, state funding they receive for textbooks passed the Legislature and now goes to the Governor for his signature. SB 786, by Senator Jack Scott, will stop a practice that currently denies students the opportunity to learn from the new standards-based materials they need to achieve the academic standards now set by the State Board of Education.

This practice, by delaying the acquisition of new course material, denies students the opportunity to learn from up-to-date standards-based instructional materials. The availability of these materials is especially important in improving the education of students in low-performing schools.

"Our first responsibility is to the students and teachers. If some districts are refusing to promptly purchase new classroom materials their children will unfairly suffer," said Scott. "My bill will get textbooks into the classroom and into students' hands."

SB 786 will require school districts that receive Schiff-Bustamante Standards-Based Instructional Materials Program funding to purchase the materials within two years of curriculum adoption by the State Board of Education. Additionally, the bill provides a process for extending this timeline if the State Board determines that the school district has an effective textbook program and enough books for its students.

The Legislature tackled the textbook shortage three years ago with a cash infusion of \$1 billion dollars to districts to buy books. The intent of the SBIM fund is to ensure that every K-12 pupil in California's public schools has the materials he or she needs to successfully reach the academic standards set by the State Board. Despite the additional state dollars, many local teachers and students have not had access to new basic tools in the classroom.

Most districts are expeditiously carrying out their responsibilities to provide as many new textbooks as they can afford. It is for the other districts -- and the students enrolled in them -- that SB 786 was introduced. SB 786 has enjoyed unanimous bipartisan support. It passed the Senate by 39-0, and the Assembly by 78-0 and is supported by the California Teachers Association.

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